Alleged violence by Army Jawans near Bikaner

773. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :
SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI :
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times', of 6th July, 1989 to the effect that a large number of Army Jawans based in Bikaner, armed with iron rods and lathis, went on a rampage at the Lalgarh railway station, near Bikaner and brutally beat up the Railway staff and passengers and snatched two rifles and 40 cartridges from the railway police on the 5th July, 1989 :

(b) if so, the details thereof :

(c) whether any inquiry has since been made in this regard : if so, the details thereof : and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) to (d) There was an altercation on 4-7-1989 between some Army Jawans scheduled to leave by train No. 340 (Bikaner—Ambala Passenger) and some civilians/Railway Staff at the Lalgarh Railway Station, in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

A court of Inqury has been ordered by the Army authorities, to look into the incident. Rajasthan Govt. have also asked the Commissioner-cum-Home Secretary to inquire into he matter. Full facts would be known when reports of these inquiries become available.

Foreign components in 'Agni' Missile.

774. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of foreign components used in the production of 'AGNI' missile :

(b) whether the USA or West Germany has protested against its indigenous production thereof : and

(c) what steps Government have taken to combat this propaganda against India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) The foreign components used for AGNI are estimated at less than 10% of the cost of the system.

(b) and (c) No, Sir : however the Government is aware of inferences that Indian Scientists acquired the technical knowhow for AGNI through their association with US Scientific Institutions or through import of West German technology. These allegations are false. The West German Government is also reported to have denied that their technology was used to develop the AGNI System. The Indian missile development programme is based on indigenous efforts. Government has publicly clarified this matter.

Re-constitution of Tele-communication regions

775. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tele-communication regions in the country were reconstituted during May, 1989; and

(b) if so what were the main reasons therefor the extent to which greater autonomy has been provided to those regions and to what extent it has increased the efficiency of the telecom system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. However, the General Manager Maintenance has been redesignated as Chief General Manager (Maintenance).

(b) The General Managers of Telecom. Circles were redesignated as Chief General Managers. To have uniformity, the General Manager (Maintenance) have also been redesignated as Chief General Managers (Maintenance).

Continuation of the Missile Plan

776. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue the missile plan;

(b) whether India have made it clear to other nations that it will not give up its indigenous missile development programme; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the proposed plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, the Prime Minister has stated publicly on 22 May 89 that the Agni demonstration "is a reflection of our commitment to the indigenous development of advanced technologies for the defence of the nation."

(c) Department of Defence Research and Development has undertaken the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). Under this programme, work on four missile systems is being progressed. These are short range surface-to-air missile (TRISHUL), medium range surface-to-air missile (AKASH), surface-to-surface missile (PRITHVI) and the third generation anti-tank missile (NAG).

In addition to these, a number of competence build up and technology demonstration programmes related to guidance, closed loop control and re-entry structures (AGNI) have also been taken up.

Defence co-operation between India and the U.S.A.

777. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:
SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of Defence to the United States;

(b) what is the state of cooperation on defence between India and the United States and whether any steps are being taken to step it up and to have more contacts between our Defence Ministry and the Pentagon;

(c) what progress has been or is proposed in relation to transfer of sophisticated technology; and